

Charter Township of Orion
Oakland County Michigan

Environmental Resource Committee Minutes
Regular Meeting, Thursday, March 2, 2017
Orion Center 7:00PM

1. Call to order by the Chair 7:00 pm
2. Roll Call: George Hanley, Beth Sheridan, Mike Flood, Corinna Womack, Matt Menghini, and Rodney Tocco. Kathy Kline, Waste Management Community Relations Manager attended as a guest.
3. Determination of a quorum: yes
4. Regular order of business
 - a. Approval of minutes from February 17 meeting: Mike Flood moved to approve the minutes, Rodney Tocco seconded; motion carried.
 - b. Approval of agenda, Mike Flood requested to amend the agenda to add a trash hauler ordinance update under new business. Mike Flood moved to approve the minutes as amended, Rodney Tocco seconded; motion carried.
5. Pending Business
 - a. Community Outreach recognizing local green business –
 - i. Corinna Womack discussed the recycling contest and ways to recognize businesses for recycling. Someone needs to fill out the nomination form. During the discussion it was suggested that clear descriptions of the reason for nomination are needed and the categories need to be defined clearly, reflecting the broad range of businesses and their recycling opportunities. It was suggested that the Supervisor would present the awards. Monthly or quarterly presentations were discussed. Topic needs to be added to the next meeting's agenda.
 - b. Membership – all spots filled except for a student representative.
 - c. Annual review of environmental resources list. Corinna Womack will incorporate updates from George Hanley and Beth Sheridan and review suggestions for format changes from Mike Deluca. The document will be provided to the members for review and then be sent to the Township for posting to the web and distributed to various sites, including the library, for public distribution.
 - d. Community Green up: George Hanley attended the initial planning committee organization meeting on February 22 for planning committee and passed out a memo from Aaron Whatley showing list of assigned projects as well as a redesigned flyer. He

indicated that committee members could join in any area from designating cleanup or beautification projects to joining the work as an individual or by forming a group. Turn in the information to Aaron at awhatley@oriontownship.org. Flyers can be distributed throughout the township. Mike Flood will help at Agawam. The date for Green Up Orion was moved to April 22, Earth Day, per Jessie Richmond's suggestion at the February meeting. The date is also consistent with the annual roadside cleanup activities in Oakland County. Kathy Klein suggested creating a safety handout for participants.

- e. Modification of Phragmites Ordinance #151. George Hanley handed out a paragraph that has been endorsed by the committee and reviewed with a number of Township officials. It would be inserted into the ordinance to create a single document addressing the process for treating Phragmites in the Township. By inserting the paragraph, developers and contractors would be encouraged to have properties evaluated and receive free, no-obligation cost estimates prior to the start of work in order to support appropriate treatment, thus mitigating the spread of this highly invasive plant species. Early treatment is highly effective and cost efficient. Mike Flood indicated that he would put the topic on the March 20 Board meeting agenda. If the Board concurs the ordinance should be amended, the required process would be initiated, including appointment of an ad hoc committee, along with engagement of the Township attorney and planning consultants. Much discussion followed.

6. New Business:

- a. Kathy Kline spoke about Waste Management and invited the committee to tour the Eagle Valley facility. The committee tentatively planned to meet there for the May meeting.
- b. Trash hauler update: Mike Flood provided an overview of the Ordinance and noted Township letters went out to 7 trash haulers in conjunction with renewing their licenses and paying annual fees by March 31, 2017.

7. Committee comments:

- a. Feedabee.com is a program initiated by Rodney Tocco's company, Bayer, which included donating wild flower seeds to support creation of gardens. George Hanley suggested that Rodney investigate whether the company would be interested in supporting beautification projects in Orion Township as part of the Earth Day, Greenup Orion day, perhaps in conjunction with Waste Management. Rodney Tocco said he would check it out. The company has a website dedicated to promoting bees. We need to put feed a bee on our website for public information.
- b. Corinna proposed an information /educational flyer similar to our recycling flyer for other environmental issues such as bees or bats and possibly lead poisoning as examples. Kathy Kline is doing a bat education project in October. Other suggestions included investigating creation of an online recycling survey as well as attending the Township homeowners association meeting on March 22.

- c. Mike Flood indicated that an agenda item creating an opportunity for public comment needs added to the agenda for our meetings. Mike Flood also reiterated that when an ordinance is updated, there needs to be 2 public hearings supported by posting in newspapers, another reason for needing Board approval to initiate the process.
 - d. The committee welcomed Matt Menghini to the OTERC team.
8. Adjournment. Beth Sheridan moved the meeting adjourn, seconded by Mike Flood; motion carried. Meeting ended at 8:30 pm.

Next meeting Thursday, May 4, 2017, 7-9pm
Orion Center